

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original.) A specimen-handling tool for use with a diagnostic test kit comprising:
 - an elongated body having a longitudinal axis that extends along the length of the elongated body;
 - a first end; and
 - a second end, the first end comprising an outermost portion adapted to skewer a tissue biopsy specimen, the outermost portion being formed as a truncated crescent so that the tip of the truncated crescent is not aligned with the longitudinal axis of the elongated body, the first end further comprising an upper surface and a lower surface that is generally inclined toward the upper surface, the upper surface being generally inclined toward the lower surface.
2. (Original.) The specimen-handling tool as claimed in claim 1, the second end further comprising a curved upper surface.
3. (Original.) The specimen-handling tool as claimed in claim 1 further comprising a gripping portion disposed between the first end and the second end, the gripping portion comprising at least one rib.
4. (Original.) The specimen-handling tool as claimed in claim 1 being formed of a rigid plastic.
5. (Original.) A specimen-handling tool comprising:
 - an elongated body having a longitudinal axis that extends along the length of the elongated body;
 - a first end comprising an outermost portion, an upper surface, and a lower surface, the upper surface being generally inclined toward the lower surface, the outermost portion being formed as a truncated crescent;
 - a second end comprising a concavely curved upper surface; and
 - a gripping portion disposed between the first end and the second end, the gripping portion comprising at least one rib.

6. (Original.) The specimen-handling tool as claimed in claim 5, the outermost portion further including a tip disposed at the end of the truncated crescent, the tip being spaced apart from the longitudinal axis of the elongated body.

7. (Original.) The specimen-handling tool as claimed in claim 5 being formed of a rigid plastic.

8. (Withdrawn.) A diagnostic system comprising:

a carrier comprising at least one well, an upper surface, and a cavity extending downwardly from the upper surface; and

a specimen-handling tool comprising an elongated body having a longitudinal axis that extends along the length of the elongated body, a first end comprising an outermost portion adapted to skewer a tissue biopsy specimen,

wherein the specimen-handling tool is configured to be positioned within the cavity of the carrier.

9. (Withdrawn.) The diagnostic system of claim 8, the outermost portion of the first end of the specimen-handling tool being formed as a truncated crescent so that the tip of the truncated crescent is spaced apart from the longitudinal axis of the elongated body.

10. (Withdrawn.) the diagnostic system of claim 8, the outermost portion of the first end of the specimen-handling tool further comprising an upper surface and a lower surface that is generally inclined toward the upper surface and the upper surface being generally inclined toward the lower surface.

11. (Withdrawn.) The diagnostic system of claim 8, the specimen-handling tool being formed of a rigid plastic.

12. (Withdrawn.) The diagnostic system of claim 8, the carrier being formed of a rigid plastic.

13. (Withdrawn.) The diagnostic system of claim 8, the carrier having at least two wells.

14. (Withdrawn.) The diagnostic system of claim 8, at least one well of the carrier having a D-shape.

15. (Withdrawn.) The diagnostic system of claim 8, the carrier having at least two wells, each well being D-shaped.

16. (Withdrawn.) The diagnostic system as claimed in claim 8 further comprising indicia disposed on the carrier.

17. (Withdrawn.) The diagnostic system as claimed in claim 8, the carrier being substantially rectangular in shape.

18. (Withdrawn.) The diagnostic system as claimed in claim 8, the carrier being formed from polycarbonate.

19. (Withdrawn.) The diagnostic system as claimed in claim 8, the specimen-handling tool being formed from polycarbonate.